

MASSACRE OF THE FRENCH KING!

VIEW OF

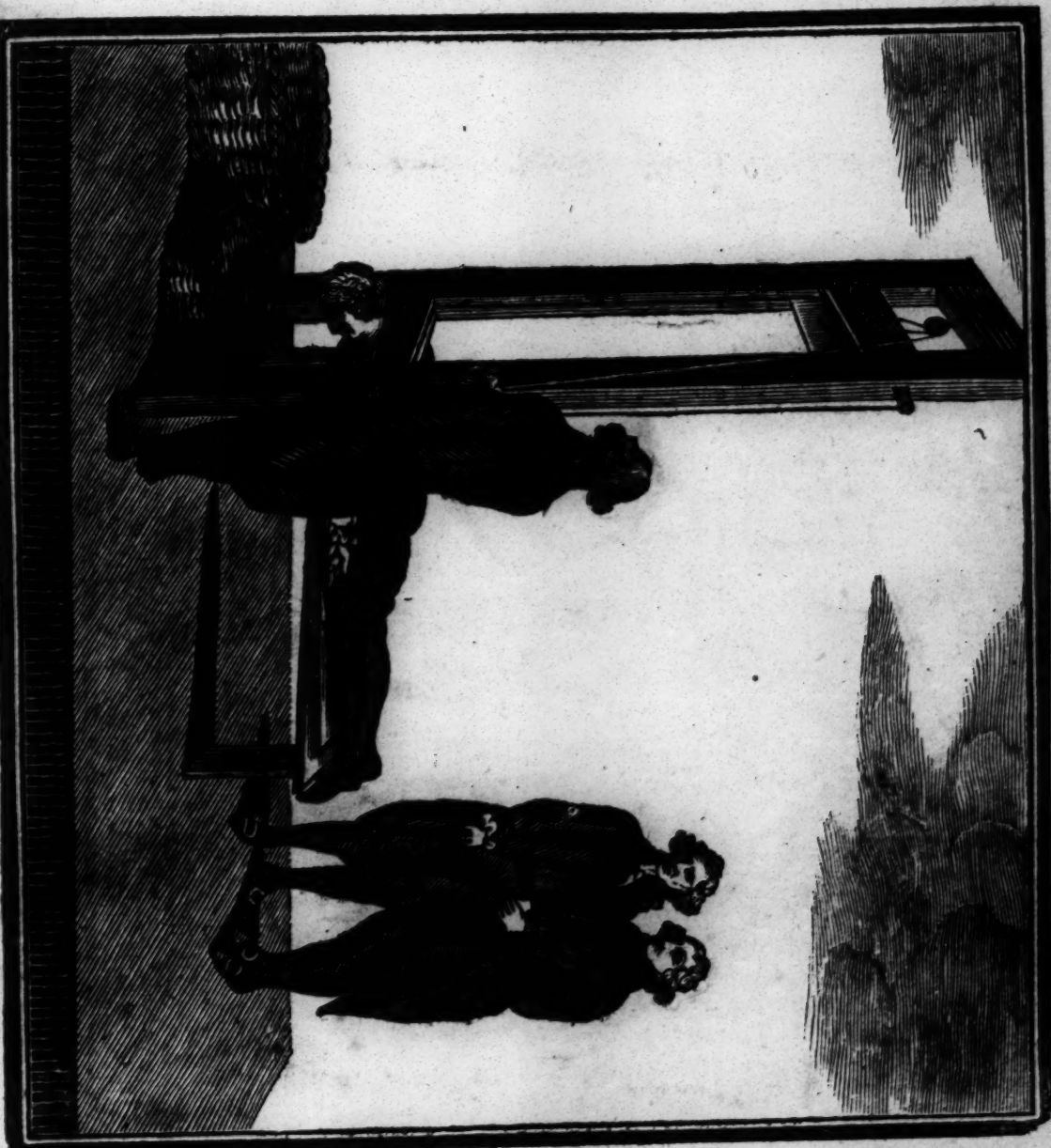
La Guillotine;

OR THE

MODERN

Behanding Machine,

AT PARIS.



By which the unfortunate **LOUIS XVI.** (late King of France) suffered on the Scaffold, January 21st, 1793.

Decree of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th, and 20th of January, 1793.

ARTICLE I.

THE National Convention declares **LOUIS CAPET**, late King of the French, guilty of a conspiracy against the Liberty of the Nation, and of a crime against the general safety of the State.

II. The National Convention declares, that **LOUIS CAPET** shall undergo the punishment of **DEATH**.

III. The National Convention declares, that the act of **LOUIS CAPET**, brought to the bar by his Council, and termed an Appeal to the Nation on the Sentence passed against him in the Convention, is null; and forbids every person from giving it authority, on pain of being prosecuted, and punished as guilty of a crime against the general safety of the Republic.

IV. The Temporal Executive Council shall notify the present Decree, within the Day, to **LOUIS CAPET**, and shall take the necessary measures of police and safety to secure its execution within twenty-four hours, reckoning from the notification, and shall render an account of the whole to the National Convention immediately after its execution.

Report of the Council who communicated the Decree to LOUIS.

The Executive Council was convened and assembled at a very early hour this morning, in order to consult on the execution of a decree relative to **LOUIS CAPET**.

The Council then sent for the Mayor of Paris, the Commandant General, the President, and the Accusateur Public of the Criminal Tribunal. After having consulted with these constituted authorities, the Minister of Justice, the President of the Executive Council, a Member of the Council, the Secretary of the Council, and two Members of the Department repaired to the Tower in the Temple.

At two o'clock they were conducted before **LOUIS**, to whom the Minister of Justice, as President of the Executive Council, spoke as follows:

LOUIS, the Executive Council hath charged us to notify to you the Extraits of the *Procès-Verbal* of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, and 19th of the present month: the Secretary will now read them.—[On this the Secretary of the Executive Council read the three above Articles.]

LOUIS then delivered, that he had something to say; on which he took out the following requisition, written with, and signed by his own hand.

"I demand a delay of three days, in order to enable me to appear in the presence of Almighty God; and the better to effect this, I request leave to call to my aid the Ex-Bishop of Permon, who lodges at No. 43, *Rue de Bagne*.

"I demand that this person be protected from all manner of insult, in order that he may be enabled to deliver himself up without fear to the work of charity which he is about to be employed in, with respect to me.

"I demand to be freed from the perpetual inspection which the General Council of the Commons has made use of towards me for some time past.

"I demand, that during this interval, I may be permitted to see my Family, without any witness, every time that I solicit this permission.

"I declare that the National Convention may deliberate immediately about the fate of my Family, and that they may be permitted to retire wherever they please.

"I recommend all the persons who were attached to me to the care and protection of the Nation. There are many of them who have expended the whole of their fortunes in order to purchase their places, and must consequently be in great distress.

"Among my penitents are a great number of old men, and of poor people burthened with large families, who have not any thing to subsist on but the allowance which I paid them.

"Given at the Tower in the Temple.

January 20, 1793.

(Signed)

"**LOUIS.**"

The Convention having heard the Report of the Minister decrees,

That the *requis* demanded by **LOUIS** shall not be granted.

That the vigilance of the Municipality shall be continued in the chamber adjoining that of **LOUIS**. Respecting the other points, the Convention passes to the order of the day, considering that the Committee of Legislation is competent thereto.

ORDERS FOR THE DAY.

January 20, 1793.—Second Year of the Republic.

The Provisional Executive Council, after deliberating on the measures to be taken, in order to execute the decrees of the National Convention of the 15th, 17th, 19th and 20th of January, 1793, has ordered as follows:

I. That the Execution of the Judgment of **LOUIS CAPET** shall take place to-morrow, Monday the 21st.

II. The place of Execution shall be *La Place de la Revolution, ci-devant Louis XV.* between the Pedestal and the Elysiun Fields.

III. **LOUIS CAPET** shall leave the Temple by eight o'clock in the morning, and the Execution shall take place at noon.

IV. Commissaries from the department of Paris, Commissaries from the Municipality, and two Members of the *Tribunal Criminel*, shall assist at the Execution. The Secretary of the Tribunal shall draw up the *procès-verbal*; and the said Commissaries and Members of the Tribunal, immediately after the Execution, shall render an account of it to the Council, who will remain in permanent session during the whole day.

V. **LOUIS CAPET** shall pass by the *Boulevard* to the Place of Execution.

By the Executive Provisional Council,

ROLAND, | MONGE, | GARAT,
CLAVIERE, | LEBRUN, | PACHE.

By order of the Council,
GRONVILLE, Secretary.

On which the Period of his Fate, and the Day of Execution, took Place, and was as follows:

At six o'clock in the morning he took his last farewell of the Queen and Royal Family, and was with them some time; the parting was affecting to the last degree; the distress of the Queen passed all description. He left the Temple agreeable to the Instructions from the Provisional Council, at eight o'clock, at which time the mournful procession set out

from the Temple. The Royal Vicar in the Mayor's Carriage, with his Confessor by his side, praying very fervently, and two Captains of National Light Horse on the front seat. The carriage was drawn by two black horses, preceded by the Mayor, General Santerre, and other Municipal Officers. One squadron of horse, with trumpeters and kettle-drums, led the van of this melancholy convey; three heavy pieces of ordnance, with proper implements, and cannoners, with lighted matches, went before the vehicle, which was escorted on both sides by a triple row of troops.

The train moved on with a slow pace from the Temple to the *Banlieue*, which was planted with cannon, and beset with National Guards, drums beating, trumpets sounding, and colours flying. The *Guillotine* was erected in the middle of the square, directly facing the gate of the garden of the *Tuileries*, between the Pedestal on which the Grandfather of **LOUIS** was standing, before the *Colonne d'Apollon*, and the avenues which lead to the grove, called the *Elysiun Fields*. The trotting and neighing of horses, the shrill sound of the trumpet, and the continual beating of drums, pierced the ears of every beholder, and heightened the terrors of the awful scene.

The scaffold was high and conspicuous, and the houses surrounding the place of Execution were full of women, who looked through the windows. The very flames which covered the roofs were raised for the curious and interested to peep through.

The King alighted from the carriage, and, with a white waistcoat, black dorene silk breeches, black silk stockings, and his face he wore a gleam flint and flock. At the foot of the scaffold he threw off his coat himself, and finding some difficulty in unbuttoning his flock, he calmly thanked a by-stander, who assisted him.—His hair was then cut off, when he took leave of his confessor, who shed a thousand tears on this mournful occasion; but routed the King with these animating expressions: "FAREWELL **LOUIS**! ascend the Scaffold and go to heaven."—He then attended the steps of the scaffold with heroic assurance, and every feature of his majestic countenance bespoke the calm serenity of conscious innocence, and the heroic fortitude of a Christian. Having walked halfround the scaffold, he then beckoned with his hand to be heard; the noise of the warlike instruments ceased for a moment; but soon after a thousand voices vociferated, towards heaven—and with agony in his eye and gesture, exclaimed, "I forgive my enemies! I die innocent!"

He was then seized by the Executioners, directed in black, who directly laid him upon his belly on the bench, and lifted up the upper part of the board which was to receive his neck, adjusted to his head properly, then flung the board and pulled the firing which is fastened to the peg at the top of the machine, which lifted up a hatch, and down came the axe: [See the annexed plate.] the head was off in a moment, and fell into a bucket which was ready to receive it; the executioner took it out by the hair, to show the populace, and then put it into another bucket along with the body.—The final part of his execution was exactly twenty-two minutes past ten.

After his head was cut off, the *Sans Culottes* and *Jacobins* waved their hats in the air, exclaiming, *Vive la Nation! Vive la République!* The music struck up *Ca Ira*, and the body was immediately removed in a black coffin.—The procession returned to the Temple in full gallop, and the sworn Deputies went to make their report.

LOUIS made a will, in which he asked pardon of God, for having sanctioned the Decree upon the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, although this sanction was extorted by violence; and was contrary to his solemn protest.

In this testament, **LOUIS** acknowledges his having freely accepted all the other parts of the Constitution; and having neglected nothing to remove from his dominions the scourge of War, and prevent the invasion of the Prussians.

In a previous Decree made by the National Convention, the place for putting their inhuman sentence into execution was to have been the Carrouvel, fronting the Palace of the *Tuileries*. This was changed by the Minister, to whom all the arrangements were confided, to the Place de la *Revolution*, heretofore the Place **LOUIS XV.**

This City yesterday resembled an immense Camp; the Sections and Federates were marching and counter-marching through the different districts;—they had their watch word;—they wheeled round wherever one corps met the other. They carried with them upwards of 53 pieces of heavy artillery, and it made a most imposing spectacle. They were constantly in motion, and could not stand still five minutes.

During the exhibition of this horrid scene, all Paris was in confusion.

The Commissaries of the Temple found in the King's desk some gold coin, to the amount of about 3000 livres. It was done up in rouleaus, and on them was written, "to M. Malherbes." This grateful bequest of the deceased Monarch was not complied with—the money was deposited in the Secretary's Office.

The following Anecdotes serve that for some Time he had been expecting his Fate.

LOUIS saw his last moment approaching with coolness and tranquillity. It is long since he resolved to sacrifice life, if we may judge from the two following anecdotes.

Two years ago, M. de Liancourt representing to **LOUIS**, that the modifications and the *et cetera* which he opposed to certain Decrees might be dangerous—"What can they do?" replied **LOUIS**, "They will put me to death—well, I shall obtain an immortal for a mortal crown."

The other Anecdote is more recent, and proves, like the former, that **LOUIS** never feared death.—On the day that **Dictee** made his defence in the Convention, Malherbes, in a conversation which he had with **LOUIS** in the evening, wished to prepare him for the event by hinting that his defence might not be attended with the desired effect, and that the issue of the trial was uncertain. "I understand you," replied **LOUIS**; "but my resolution is already taken. I see, without fear, my last hour approaching; and I shall lay my head on the block without uneasiness. You will perhaps be surprised when I tell you that my wife and my father think exactly as I do."

The last request of the unfortunate **LOUIS** breathes the soul of magnanimity, and a mind enlightened with the finest ideas of human virtue. He appears not to be that man which his enemies reported.—His heart was found, his head was clear, and he would have reigned with glory, had he but possessed those faults which his affidius had to his charge.—His mind possessed the fugitations of wisdom, and even in his last moments, when the spirit of life was winged for another world, his lips gave utterance to them, and he spoke with firmness and resignation.

Thus has ended the life of **LOUIS XVI.** after a period of four years detention, during which he experienced from his subjects every species of ignominy and cruelty which a people could inflict on the most languinary tyrant.—**LOUIS XVI.** who was proclaimed at the commencement of his reign, THE FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE; and by the Constituent Assembly, THE RESTORER OF THEIR LIBERTIES.—**LOUIS**, who but a few years since was the most powerful monarch in Europe, has at last perished on his scaffold. Neither his own natural goodness of heart—his desire to procure the happiness of his subjects—nor that ancient love which the French entertained for their monarch, has been sufficient to save him from this CRUEL SACRIFICE.

+ A more particular account of this machine may be seen in TWISS'S TRIP to PARIS, lately published.

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